

2/ppts

10/ 550 478

JC05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 SEP 2005

- 1 -

Clip for Clamping Sheets

This invention concerns a clip for clamping sheets according to the preamble of claim 1.

There are several kinds of clips of differently designs in principle:

- 5 On the one hand staples, which perforate the paper and which can only be removed with difficulty and on the other hand clips based on friction, which can in turn essentially be divided into two groups, i.e.: paper clips consisting of a piece of wire, plastic or sheet metal or spring-loaded clamping devices with attached handles.
- 10 In the case of the conventional paper clip and the sheet metal clamp, the latter group of clips, which are based on a clamping effect, have the disadvantage of low holding ability, while, due to the necessary handles, the other devices are cumbersome, multipart and bulky and also of only limited functionality, since the closing and opening mechanism is not separated from the clipping mechanism.

15

The one-piece clips of WO 2001/58700A, DE 42 39 544A, US 59 70 777A, GB 1 206 538A, DE 381 810C have two faults:

1. Those, which can be easily slipped onto a stack of sheets, only have low clamping power due to the material or because they clamp by means of surfaces.
- 20 2. The only clip with high clamping power (WO 01/58700A) is however very difficult to remove from the stack.

This invention aims to provide remedial measures and to disclose a clip wherewith the sheets that are to be held together are pressed directly against each other and are fixed, without damaging the sheets, by means of spring-loaded triangular or trapezoidal or

25 semicircular or semielliptical limbs and by inwardly bent folds. The clamping effect of this clip is almost comparable with that of a positive locking clip. According to this invention, these goals are achieved by means of the technical features characterized in claims 1 to 3.

30

The invention is described in greater detail in the following by means of the drawings.

Figs. 1 - 3 show a triangular form of a one-piece clip of this invention. Fig. 1 shows this clip in horizontal projection, Fig. 2 in lateral projection and Fig. 3 in oblique projection.

Figs. 4 - 6 show a trapezoidal and semicircular design of the clips of Figs. 1 - 3. Figs. 7 -

- 35 9 show a multipart clip of this invention, whose limbs are almost identical with that of Figs. 1 - 3.

The clip, as represented in Figs. 1 - 6, has two mirror-image limbs 1, 1a, 1b, which are connected with each other so as to swivel elastically along a back 2. Since the clip is intended to grasp the paper stack on one corner and since the stack must be easily separable, the limbs 1, 1a, 1b are made to be triangular or trapezoidal or semicircular or semielliptical.

The clip, as shown in Fig. 7 - 9 has two limbs 6, which are movably connected with one another by a spring 7 such that, both in the relaxed state of the clip and in the state in which a stack of sheets is clamped, both limbs 6 are located on top of each other and parallel to each other, without mutual contact.

As shown in Fig. 1A and Fig. 1B, the inwardly curved folds 3 are respectively located on one side 4 of the two limbs 1, 1a, 6 (Fig. 1, 4, 7) arranged at an acute or obtuse angle 4a with respect to the back 2 or in the region of the vertex 8 of the two limbs 1b (Fig. 5).

The clip is neither opened nor closed, it is only applied to the paper stack with the curve 5 of the limbs 1, 1a, 6 or with the curve 5a of the limbs 1b and pushed over the paper stack by finger pressure 4', 2' in the direction of the edge 4 or toward the back 2. It is removed by pushing in the direction opposite to 4' or 2'.

An absolutely reliable stop of the clamped sheets is ensured by the fold 3 which is beveled at an angle 3a. This clip can be made of metal, plastic, wood or paper.